

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE ALL HALLOWS MISSION SCHOOL YALE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, MID- SUMMER 1890.

I have great pleasure in reporting the result of the examination, which at the request of his Lordship the Bishop of New Westminster, I have just held at the School. The examination of the senior pupils was largely conducted by means of papers, the questions of which were as a rule well answered. The children's knowledge of the various selected portions of the Scriptures—and as to this I speak of all the departments of the School—was specially good save in some few instances, chiefly those of Indian children who had very recently entered the Institution and were therefore yet in the earliest stage of instruction. I was also struck by the generally intelligent reading of the pupils, and especially of the elder ones, who in this respect compare favourably with most of the British Columbian boys of like age, whom I have heard rendering passages of the Bible in the Sunday School. Dictation, too, was as a rule well done; and fair proficiency shown in Map Drawing, Elementary History, Grammar, Geography, and Arithmetic. Many of the children's Compositions were also fairly good, regard being had to the fact that to most of the pupils English is more or less of a foreign tongue. The children of All Hallows also sing very sweetly in chorus, a fact the more noticeable as this is a healthful, recreative, and instructive element, almost wholly neglected in the state established day schools of British Columbia.

I must further make an especial allusion to the accurate and evidently reverent knowledge of the Scriptures, possessed by one of the older girls named Mali, an Indian *puisang*. The younger children whom I examined stood the test so well, having regard to their age and race, that I expect some of them even to pass beyond the present standard, good though it generally is, of the older pupils. The children are I understand taught simple needlework well, a subject however on which I ventured not to adjudge. They also assist in the domestic arrangements of the house, which is a model of order, cleanliness and neatness, and of their culinary attainments, the hospitality of establishment tendered me during my visit of inspection bore very satisfactory proof.

The tone of the School seems excellent and the children have evidently a loving regard for their protectresses and teachers.

I had, as I may state, during my visit a good opportunity of noting the general aspect of this Institution maintained by the Sisters of All Hallows, Ditchingham. The School-house, situated in a lovely valley on the

Fraser River, is not only delightful as to externals but within provided with all things necessary to the health and comfort of the pupil-protégés.

Excellent work is accordingly being done (on a scale, unfortunately limited by the too slender resources of the Institution) for some of the many girl children of a most interesting native race. The younger Indians of British Columbia are, as I conceive, capable by virtue of a naturally docile intelligence of becoming under Christian conditions a very useful, permanent element of the working community of the Province. The dark appealing eyes and faces of the children, many of whom have quite a pathetic beauty of their own, seem to plead eloquently for help from the white brothers and sisters to whom they now as Christian natives look for practical sympathy. And that they belong to a race capable of the higher life is proven amply by the knowledge and the conduct of several among the pupils of this School. I am glad to learn therefore that the School is about to be enlarged, so as to accommodate more Indian children and a fair number of white pupils.

There is ample scope for such extended work, not only in Yale, but elsewhere in British Columbia, did the sadly limited educational resources of the diocese of New Westminster permit it. This extension is the more desirable on the part of the Anglican Church in British Columbia which should not lag behind in any good work—inasmuch as the Roman Catholics of the Province, to their credit be it said—have long been and still are largely rendering religious educational aid to the Indians of British Columbia.

I was not surprised to find among the children of the school, several intelligent pupils of white parentage. Their natural guardians rightly think it better to send them to a school like this, in which their duty to God and man is taught from the highest of all motives, than to trust them to the purely secular training of a public day-school in a Province, the Legislature of which has decided, not only to exclude from daily education all Christian teaching, but has also forbidden, during school hours, the simple reading of the scriptures. It is therefore the more satisfactory to note, that the proposed extension of the school will include the establishment of a department for white girl pupils.

I need say no more in conclusion than again express the pleasure and satisfaction afforded by my brief visit to All Hallows School, and wish it a long and increasingly useful future career.

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Montescop,
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4th. July, 1890.